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19 August 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Discussion of Pending Legislation to Give U.S. Citizenship to Certain Employees of RFE and Radio Liberty

PARTICIPANTS: Rep. Peter Rodino, Democrat, 10th District of New Jersey and Member of the House Judiciary Committee; Mr. G. J. Cline, Member of the Judiciary Committee Staff; [REDACTED]

1. On 16 August 1966, [REDACTED] and I went to Rep. Rodino's office in the Rayburn Building to discuss legislation designed to give residence credit to certain employees of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. Mr. Rodino had requested that CIA representatives discuss the legislation with him to clear up a few points and to provide him with answers to some possible questions that he might be asked concerning the beneficiaries of the bill.

2. Mr. Rodino suggested that the period of overseas employment by an incorporated U.S. nonprofit corporation which significantly promotes U.S. interests abroad might be increased from five years as the bill proposes to ten years. Mr. Rodino seemed to think that a longer period of time might allay some possible misgivings on the part of other members of the Judiciary sub-committee that will be handling the bill. He asked how many current employees would be adversely affected if the period of employment overseas were increased from five to ten years. [REDACTED] and I told him that very few current employees would be affected, but that such an increase in the time required might have an adverse effect on morale and also inhibit others from accepting employment with the two projects. After some discussion, Mr. Rodino agreed that it would be preferable to leave the period of eligibility at five years.

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3. Mr. Rodino wanted to be reassured that guards, manual laborers, and char force personnel would not be covered by the bill and was told that only professional employees of RFE and Radio Liberty and their families could meet the requirements. At Mr. Cline's suggestion, it was agreed that a clause in the original bill which had later been deleted specifying that one of the requirements would be that the individual hold a permanent residence permit should be re-inserted. Mr. Cline would draft the appropriate amendment and see that it was put into the bill. Following his question on the subject, Mr. Rodino was assured that security checks had been run on all persons eligible for citizenship under the bill; he indicated that it was important that he be able to answer this question if it should be raised.

4. According to Mr. Rodino, the only place where there might be any trouble would be in the sub-committee, although he really did not anticipate difficulty there. Nevertheless, he said, one could never tell what the chairman might do. Mr. Rodino said he would discuss the bill with the minority members of the subcommittee and inform them of the bill's objectives. After committee approval, Mr. Rodino will seek to have the bill placed on the consent calendar; he does not expect any difficulty once the bill reaches the House floor.

5. Mr. Cline will keep  advised of the bill's progress and will call on him if any further assistance is required.



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